

Attorney Docket 58084US004
U.S.S.N. 10/530,468

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently amended) A tape application jig for applying a pressure sensitive adhesive tape to an adherend having a bent portion and/or curved portion, comprising:

a tape application head for applying said pressure sensitive adhesive tape under pressure to a tape applying surface of the adherend;

a jig guide which is to be disposed on a surface of the adherend opposite to said tape application head for guiding said tape application jig along the adherend;

a biasing member for biasing said jig guide and said tape application head toward one another to thereby control tape application and pressing force exerted on the pressure sensitive adhesive tape, when the tape applying surface of the adherend is in position there between for receiving the pressure sensitive tape; and

tape holding member structure defining at least a portion of a tape guiding space and an entrance into said tape guiding space, said entrance allowing the tape to be inserted into said tape guiding space in a direction generally transverse to a direction of movement of the tape through said tape guiding space, said entrance being open during the application of the tape to a bent portion and/or curved portion of the adherend, wherein said tape holding member structure comprises first and second ~~fixed~~ tape holding members fixed relative to said tape application head and spaced apart so as to define said entrance into said tape guiding space, said tape application head having an axis generally transverse to (1) the direction of movement of the tape and (2) an axis passing through said tape application head and said jig guide, wherein a portion of said second tape holding member extends away from said tape application head and toward said first tape holding member so as to define a portion of said tape guiding space and a part of said second tape holding member extends beyond a part of said first tape holding member in a direction generally transverse to the direction of movement of the tape through said tape guiding space and to the axis of said tape application head.

2. (Previously presented) The tape application jig of claim 1, wherein said jig guide further comprises a guide pin capable of being received in a groove provided in the adherend surface opposite to the tape applying surface of the adherend, such that said guide pin engages

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the groove in the adherend surface, when said tape application jig is in position on the adherend to apply the pressure sensitive tape to the tape applying surface, so as to prevent the tape application jig from being removed from the adherend in a direction other than the direction the tape application jig travels when applying the pressure sensitive adhesive tape, without first biasing said tape application head and said jig guide apart.

3. (Previously presented) The tape application jig according to claim 2, wherein said jig guide further comprises a block and said guide pin is embedded in said block.

4. (Previously presented) The tape application jig according to claim 2, wherein said guide pin has a diameter of about 1mm to about 5mm.

5. (Previously presented) The tape application jig according to claim 1, wherein said jig is capable of being slid continuously on the tape applying surface portion of the adherend irrespective of the shape of the adherend and without removing and re-attaching the tape application jig.

6. (Previously presented) The tape application jig according to claim 1, wherein said first tape holding member comprises a plate member having a rectangular cross section and said second tape holding member comprises an opposing plate member having an angle cross section.

7. (Previously presented) The tape application jig according to claim 1, wherein said tape application head comprises at least one cylindrical member.

8. (Previously presented) The tape application jig according to claim 7, wherein said cylindrical member has a surface layer having the function of a slide promoting layer or a buffer layer for the pressure sensitive adhesive tape.

9. (Previously presented) The tape application jig according to claim 1, wherein said jig guide comprises a plate member having a rectangular cross section.

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10. (Previously presented) The tape application jig according to claim 1, wherein said jig guide comprises at least one roller.

11. (Previously presented) The tape application jig according to claim 1, wherein said tape holding member further comprises a paper processing member for removing and clearing release paper of the pressure sensitive adhesive tape.

12. (Previously presented) The tape application jig according to claim 1 in combination with an adherend that is part of a vehicle.

13. (Previously presented) The combination according to claim 12, in combination with a pressure sensitive adhesive tape.

14. (Previously presented) The combination according to claim 12, wherein said adherend is part of a window frame of a vehicle.

15. (Previously presented) The tape application jig according to claim 1, in combination with a pressure sensitive adhesive-backed paint replacement film that can be applied to an adherend with said jig.

16. (Previously presented) The tape application jig according to claim 2, wherein said jig is capable of being slid continuously on the tape applying surface portion of the adherend irrespective of the shape of the adherend and without removing and re-attaching the tape application jig.

17. (Previously presented) The tape application jig according to claim 2, wherein said jig guide comprises at least one roller.

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18. (Previously presented) The tape application jig according to claim 2 in combination with an adherend that is part of a vehicle and a pressure sensitive adhesive tape.

19. (Previously presented) The tape application jig according to claim 2, in combination with a pressure sensitive adhesive-backed paint replacement film that can be applied to an adherend with said jig.

20. (Previously presented) The combination according to claim 19, in combination with at least a part of a window frame of a vehicle.

21. (Canceled)

22. (Currently amended) The tape application jig according to claim 1, wherein said first tape holding member has a longitudinal axis generally parallel with a ~~the longitudinal~~ axis of said tape application head and said second tape holding member has a longitudinal axis generally transverse to the longitudinal axis of said first tape holding member.

23. (Currently amended) The tape application jig according to claim 1, wherein said first tape holding member has a center axis generally parallel to a ~~the longitudinal~~ axis of said tape application head and said second tape holding member has a center axis generally parallel to the longitudinal axis of said tape application head and said center axes of said first and second tape holding members are spaced apart from one another in the direction of movement of the tape through said tape guiding space.

24. (Previously presented) The tape application jig according to claim 1, wherein at least a portion of a sloping surface of said first tape holding member is positioned adjacent to at least a portion of a sloping surface of said second tape holding member so as to define at least a portion of said entrance.

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25. (Previously presented) The tape application jig according to claim 1, wherein said second tape holding member has a sloping surface extending in the direction of movement of the tape through said tape guiding space.

26. (Previously presented) The tape application jig according to claim 25, wherein said first tape holding member has a sloping surface extending generally transverse to the direction of movement of the tape through the tape guiding space.

27. (Previously presented) The tape application jig according to claim 25, wherein said second tape holding member further comprises an intermediate surface spaced from said second member sloping surface, said intermediate surface being positioned in a plane that extends through said first tape holding member.

28. (Withdrawn) A process for applying a pressure sensitive adhesive tape to an adherend having a bent portion and/or curved portion, comprising:
attaching the tape application jig according to claim 1 to the adherend; and
applying the pressure sensitive adhesive tape to the adherend by the moving the jig along the adherend.

29. (Withdrawn) The process as set out in claim 28, wherein said applying the pressure sensitive adhesive tape to the adherend comprises allowing the pressure sensitive adhesive tape to exit the tape guiding space through the entrance when the pressure sensitive adhesive tape is being applied to a bent portion and/or curved portion of the adherend.

30 (New) The tape application jig of claim 1, wherein said part of said first tape holding member and said part of said second tape holding member define a portion of said entrance into said tape guiding space.